

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)

Week commencing 1st June 2025 Mass Book Page 275

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

Responsorial Psalm: 97:1, 6, 9 Response: The Lord is king, most high above all the earth.

Second Reading: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. I will not leave you as orphans, says the Lord. I am going away and I will come to you, and your hearts will rejoice. Alleluia.

Gospel: John 17:20-26

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Saturday 31 st May 5.30pm ** <i>Livestreamed</i> Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Vigil Mass 2 nd Collection World Communications Sunday	Rhea, Ash and family for Rhea's recovery.
Sunday 1 st June 8:30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst	Holy Mass 2 nd Collection World Communications Sunday	David Barras RIP
Sunday 1 st 10:30am ** <i>Livestreamed</i> Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Holy Mass 2 nd Collection World Communications Sunday	Missa Pro Populo
Monday 2 nd	FATHER'S DAY OFF (Office closed)	
Tuesday 3 rd 6.00pm Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Saint Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs, Memorial Holy Mass	
Wednesday 4 th 09.30am Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Holy Mass - Feria	Nigel Payne Anniversary RIP
Thursday 5 th		
Friday 6 th 9.30am Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Holy Mass – Feria	
Saturday 7 th 5.30pm ** Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Pentecost Sunday Vigil Mass	Missa Pro Populo
Sunday 8 th 08.30am <mark>St Barnabas, Hawkhurst</mark>	Pentecost Sunday Holy Mass	Private Intention
Sunday 8 th 10.30am **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Pentecost Sunday Holy Mass	

REFLECTION, SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)

Our vocation is to be like Jesus in every aspect of our lives, in our thoughts, in our words and in our actions. It is because it is so important that his disciples resembled him that he not only prayed that they be united but also promised to send them the Holy Spirit. He knew very well that unless the Holy Spirit animated them, they could not follow his example. That is why he did not fail to send them the Holy Spirit and once they received the Spirit they were radically transformed into his witnesses.

This is the story of the Acts of the Apostles. Because they were inspired by the spirit, they were able to overcome opposition and persecution with the energy of love as the spirit of Christ lived in them and ensured that they were victorious in every situation or occasion.

This is particularly true in respect of Stephen. Like his master Stephen was filled with the spirit and so was not afraid to bear witness to the truth. Nothing is clearer here than the fact that Stephen's life approximates the life of Christ. In his attitude and disposition, he is completely like Christ. Indeed, just as Jesus suffered and died in the hands of evil men who preferred falsehood to truth, Stephen paid the price for being true to the promptings of the Spirit rather than merely acting to please men.

Stephen's example is eloquent and indeed reminds us clearly that what is required of us as Christians is not mere words but action. In any situation what truly shows we are Christian is when we resemble Christ in our manner of acting. If the spirit lives and moves in us we will rise to the challenges of each occasion.

As we anticipate the coming of the Spirit let us ask the Lord to fill us afresh with his spirit and teach us to be faithful to the promptings of the Spirit, so that in all that we do and say, it is Christ who acts in us and through us. Come Holy Spirit and fill our hearts afresh with your divine presence!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. Bible Reading: Gospel of Luke 19. If anyone has any questions, please contact Father Damian by email or phone.
- 2nd Collection for World Communications Sunday this weekend. This collection supports the work of the Catholic Communications Network, the media office of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The CCN provides up to date news releases, features and podcasts and trains spokesmen and women. Please support them to keep us informed.
- 3. You are welcome to tea and coffee after Mass on 1st June where we will hold the May Draw for the 100 Club. Please make sure you are up to date with your cash payments for May' Draw on Sunday at Goudhurst.
- 4. Light a Candle in the Church at Sacred Heart Goudhurst on 12th June between 10.00am and noon.
- 5. Maidstone Deanery Confirmation Programme 2025 Applications are invited from School age young people in Year 9 or above, to join our 2025 Deanery Confirmation programme, who live in the parishes of Maidstone Deanery (St Francis', Maidstone/ St Peter's, Bearsted/ Holy Family, Park Wood /St Thomas More, West Malling/St Theodore's Cranbrook/St Andrew's, Tenterden / Sacred Heart, Goudhurst). The programme will run on mainly Sunday evenings at St Francis' Church, Maidstone, beginning in June, a break throughout the summer holiday, continuing through September October, with the Confirmation Mass scheduled for Saturday 25th October, 2pm. (Venue TBC)**Applicants must be Catholics, who have made their First Holy Communion.**Applications must come from the candidate themselves. **Applicants will commit to attending all of the sessions.**Applicants must also be willing to participate fully in all aspects of the programme.To request an application form, which also gives details of dates and times of sessions, please email confirmation@stfrancisparish.org.uk The closing date for applications is Monday 9th June 2025 Any other questions can be raised either through this dedicated confirmation mailbox, or by contacting Deacon Ian.
- 6. **Goudhurst Fete & Dog Show 14th June**, We will need cakes, biscuits, jams, pickles etc but also we will have a table for artisan works. Please brush off your hidden talents and be creative!
- 7. Please will you inform Father of any parishioners who are sick and would like a visit, and if they would like their names to appear in our Newsletter for our prayer.
- 8. Archdiocesan Jubilee Celebration Day at The Friars, Aylesford 7 June 2025. It will be the centre-piece event of the 2025 Jubilee see Jubilee 2025: Archdiocese of Southwark. Archdiocesan Jubilee



Please continue to keep in your daily prayers the sick of our parish family, Rowena Bennett, Jenny Doyle, Chris Davis and Jasmin Cameron.

ANNIVERSARIES

† Please pray for the repose of the Souls of Paul Przybylski, Victor Edward King, Ralph Ryan, Joan Ryan, Charles Warr, Gerald Samuels, Betty Moss, Irene Therese Culshaw, Michael Curtin and Denise Brooks. *Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them, May they rest in Peace.*

ONLINE DONATIONS BANK DETAILS, NatWest Bank: RCAS Sacred Heart Goudhurst, Account No: 59004576 Sort Code: 60 06 18 Gift Aiders please add your envelope number and name as a reference